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## Bring A Friend This Sunday

8:00 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Traditional Worship</b> —Sanctuary
10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School, all ages</b>
10:16 AM	<b>The Bridge Worship,</b> —3901 E. Yukon
11:00 AM	<b>Fellowship Worship</b> —Fellowship Center

First United Methodist Church, Odessa, Texas, founded in 1890, is a community of Christians who have pledged to support this church with their presence, their service, their gifts and their prayers. We dedicate ourselves to spreading God's Word throughout our community and to providing meaningful worship experiences, fellowship, and opportunities to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. As United Methodists, "our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to all those who seek God's Grace."  
The *CULTIVATOR* is a monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and "cultivating" the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.

**First United Methodist Church-Odessa  
Mission Statement**  
*We exist for **LIFE**...*  
*To **Love** others, **Invite** them to join us as we **Follow**  
Christ, who **Empowers** us to make a difference.*



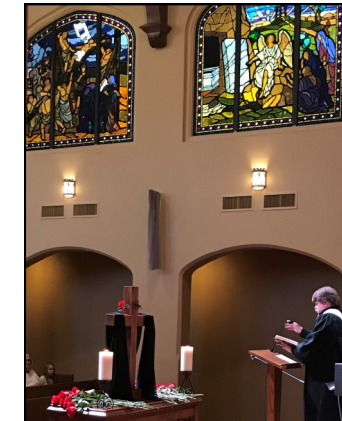
# CULTIVATOR

Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Congregation  
Volume 16, Issue 4  
April 2018

## The Path To Resurrection Sunday Is Full Of Special Crosses

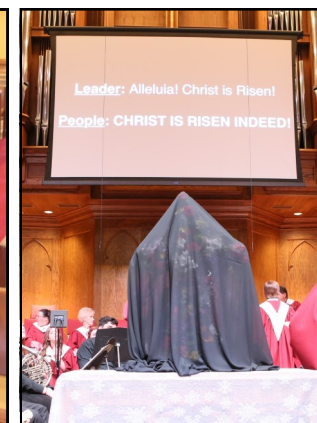


Communion is served on Maundy Thursday in front of the Lenten cross created by former member Jay Stovall.



See more  
Lenten  
and  
Easter events  
on  
Pages 4 & 5

On Good Friday, a single red rose in a crown of thorns, adorned another special cross. Other red roses on the altar, represented the blood of Jesus shed for us in the powerful choral presentation, *The Rose Of Calvary*. As choir members left the sanctuary, each one tore rose petals and scattered them on the aisle. Choir director David Corman completed stripping the altar by carrying the cross from the sanctuary, representing the crucifixion.



8:00 Sunday School Class members Randy & Lynn Correa and Marty Farris carry the flower-adorned cross into the sanctuary before draping it in black. Randy made the cross specifically for Lent and Easter Sunday. Rev. Todd Salzwedel and Rev. Dr. Ed Williamson unveil the flower cross at the beginning of the Traditional worship service to represent the symbolic transition from the darkness of Good Friday to the joy of Resurrection Sunday. Lisa Brazile used crosses on the simple, yet joyful, wall hangings to adorn the sanctuary for the seven Sundays of Eastertide.



**Priscilla  
SHIRER**

**APRIL  
28**

**SIMULCAST**

Worship with TONY EVANS

**10:00am - 5:30pm** **Cost: FREE**  
**Doors open at 9:15am** **Bring Potluck Snacks**

sponsored by  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**OIL PATCH SERIES**



The "Oil Patch Lecture Series" is made possible by an endowment made in 1986 by a generous 1st-UMC family who prefers to not be named. The endowment's vision is to bring in world class speakers to the Permian Basin "who spread The Word." By participating in the Oil Patch Series, you help fulfill the vision of this endowment. **Register at**  
**www.fumcodessa.org or call 432.337.1527**





Todd Salzwedel  
Senior Pastor

**Wow! That's just what comes to mind...WOW!**

Watching the kids sing on Palm Sunday and the amazing brass instrumentalists (they were all teenagers, by the way!) on Easter morning was a demonstration of our children offering back to God. I was particularly struck by the varying worship styles we participated in for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The experiential approach on Thursday and moving choir leadership on Friday provided a poignant expression of the flood of emotion that was felt so long ago, and persists still today. And of course, gathering on Easter morning to proclaim Hallelujah at both services downtown was an invigorating way to remind us of the joy and power of being God's people! I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to so many people that helped to make the very first Community Sunrise Service a great success, and a great launching pad for continued community engagement into the future!

It is my hope that each of us was as profoundly touched by attending or serving among the many opportunities over the last few weeks. I want to thank

the staff and volunteers who put in so much work to make all of this possible. In addition, we were blessed to welcome so many people formally to our church family as well...more than 30 people joined the church, 4 youth were confirmed, and there were 10 baptisms the first two weeks of April! Wow!

But like the early disciples, Easter is a launching point for us to be the witness of Christ out in the world. We join with the saints that have gone before us to share in the Good News of Jesus, to proclaim his kingdom, and to spread his love to everyone we meet! Wow!

As we approach Pentecost, let us be in prayer that the Holy Spirit will infiltrate our souls in mighty ways. I pray that we will be confident and risk-taking in our pursuit to be disciples of Jesus in all that we do. We are the church that Christ established, and we have been invited to share in his mission to make the Kingdom of God a reality here in Odessa and beyond! With God, all things are possible! Wow!

*Pastor Todd*

**Kansas Wesleyan University Choir and Orchestra Make a Stop at FUMC**



The Kansas Wesleyan University Choir and Orchestra performed a beautiful concert on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 at FUMC. After the performance, FUMC members hosted students at their homes overnight. Two graduates of Odessa College and the FUMC Choir Scholarship Program are members of this choir and are music majors at KWU:



Jacob Corman



Rachel Holder

Soprano Rachel Holder and Bass Jacob Corman. Next year current FUMC scholarship student Mezzo-Soprano Destinee Altier will also be attending KWU. Kansas Wesleyan is a private Methodist college in Salina, KS with an outstanding music program—what a wonderful opportunity for FUMC to participate in this ongoing relationship with our excellent college students!

*David Corman—Traditional Service Worship Leader*

...who Empowers us to make a difference in our church, our community and our world.



The Spice of Life group last met on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Russell and Beverly Kimble provided us with a delicious home-made meal. Marsha Melton provided the beautiful table decorations, and Marlene Moss provided the door prize. We are so blessed by all of our volunteers that work so hard to make Spice of Life a wonderful outreach ministry.

The program was given by Rev. Todd Salzwedel, and it was based on the inner-generational relationships. I want to personally thank Todd for jumping in there and helping out while I was in ministry at a funeral.

If you are in the 60+ year old category, we invite you to come join us next month. You will enjoy the food and fellowship and be glad you came. We always meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 – 1:00.

Blessings to you all,

*Jody Wallin, Congregational Care Pastor*



Celebrating their March birthdays are Pastor Todd and Mrs. Daisy George.



**UMW Hard At Work At The West Texas Food Bank**



For March's United Methodist Women's meeting, we went to the West Texas Food Bank to spend time helping that great organization. While we were there, we filled boxes of food bound for Presidio. It was amazing how carefully they put things in these boxes, and how much they get in them. Food ranged from Macaroni and cheese, pasta, dried fruit, rice, and cereal etc. Then the boxes are loaded into the Food Bank truck and off they go. When they get to Presidio they carry the boxes to the cars.

Odessa should be very proud of our Food Bank and what it does.

Lura Sivalls, Tammy Hawkins, Cathy McKelvain, Dorothy Gibson, Wanda and Marvin Hamby, Jr., Robbie Brazelton, Julie Brown, and myself helped out. Come join a UMW meeting on the third Thursday of the month. *In Christ, Marsha Melton*



We exist for LIFE...To LOVE others, INVITE them to join us as we FOLLOW Christ...

Welcome New Members



The Pennington Family was welcomed into the 1st-UMC family on March 4 during the Traditional worship service. Pictured are new members Marcus & Jodie and children, Lucy, Lady, Lily, Sera and James, and visiting grandmother, Betty Duff.



On March 11, the Fellowship worship service welcomed as new members Tarence Taylor with his fiancé Melanie Limuel. Melanie works in our Children's Center and is our Sunday Nursery Coordinator. Children's Pastor April Cole is pictured with them.

**Children's Ministry Parent's Night Out**

Every Third Friday  
6:00- 8:30 pm

RSVP  
\$5 per child  
april@fumcodessa.org

**Echo Youth**

*Pizza Night!*

"Make Your Own Pizza"  
Wednesday, April 11  
6-8pm

**velocity**

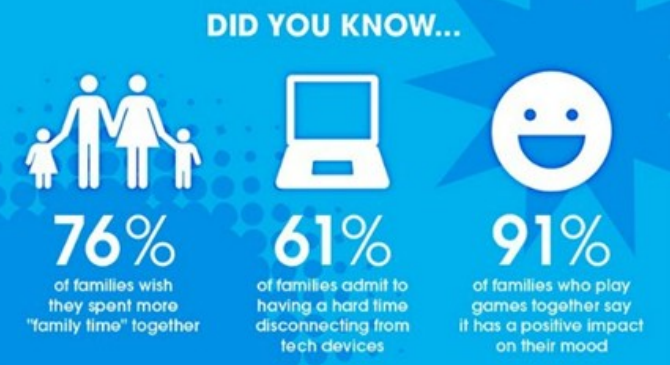
**D6** 10-11am  
Sunday School for  
Students Sundays  
Student Ministry Center

Memorials

<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Chrystal Fouche</b> Given by Robert L. Chappell, Jr. M.D. Marsha & Dee Melton	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Jean Heggemeier</b> Given by Marsha & Dee Melton	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Rowena Byrd</b> Given by Patricia Sullivan	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Jackie Sue Barnes</b> Given by Georgene (Genie) Miller
<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Evelyn Bauman</b> Given by Builders Sunday School Class Robert L. Chappell, Jr. M.D. Auxiliary of Odessa Regional Medical Center	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Craig "Doc" Cody</b> Given by Marsha & Dee Melton	<b>Sanctuary Choir Fund</b> <b>In Memory of</b> <b>AnEll Crudup</b> Given by Sunflower Bible Study	<b>Honorariums</b> <b>Samaritans By Grace</b> <b>In Honor of</b> <b>Betsy Triplett Hurt &amp; Buzz Hurt</b> Given by The Sanctuary Choir
	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>An Ell Crudup</b> Given by Marsha & Dee Melton	<b>In Memory of</b> <b>Ramey McManigle</b> Given by Georgene (Genie) Miller	

D6 FAMILY MINISTRIES

APRIL ELEMENT: PRAISE



*Hallelujah! Praise God! Glory to God! Yes Lord! ...* are just a few verbal expressions of praising God. May we not forget the outward expressions of praise that include fellowship and serving in way that the receiver experiences unconditional love and acceptance. That is why we daily **praise** God "from whom all blessings flow." It becomes a habit, which turns into a lifestyle.

This month the D6 2GEN Curriculum challenges students to identify the true meaning of Easter and to make the choice to live lives of worship to Christ in response. The Psalms express a wide range of emotion and response to real life situations. This

month the students and home evaluate how the psalmists responded in various circumstances and identify similar ways to express themselves to God with their own songs from the heart. The Preschool kids will focus on the *Easter*. Students will learn the truth *Jesus is Alive* as they explore the biblical account of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

FUMC's family ministries goal is to become a D6 church, a church that partners with the home. Based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we are praying and intentionally moving to become a culture that partners and equips the homes to be the ministers. The D6 2Gen curriculum is a unified curriculum with a 6-year scope, covering the entire story of the Bible by focusing on grace-filled relationship with God rather than moralistic prohibitions and expectations.

**HOME TIP**  
**Week 1...Spend 5 minutes each day with your child(ren) in prayer, listening to them share about God, or use the D6 devotional sent home with your child(ren).**  
*Add 5 minutes each week and in 3 months you can be spending 1 hour of God time together.*

*May we continue to live out our baptismal vows that with God's help we will nurture and include one another in the Christian faith and life ...for generations to come! Praise God!*  
~ Pastor Karin Carlson, Associate Pastor

APRIL 2018 OLD TESTAMENT: PSALMS 1 and 2				
SONGS FROM THE HEART				
April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
A Song for Suffering	A Song for the King	A Song of Enduring Love	A Song of Praise	A Song for Justice
Psalms 22 (Book 1)	Psalms 72 (Book 2)	Psalms 89 (Book 3)	Psalms 103 (Book 4)	Psalms 109 (Book 5)
Individual Lament	Royal Psalm	Royal Psalm	Hymn of Praise	Imprecatory Psalm

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

Parents come join your kids for ...  
**Foundation Kids Family Game Night!**  
Every third Wednesday for K-5th grades

6-8pm in the Fellowship Center  
Snacks provided.

**VBS Volunteers Needed!**

June 18-22

**SHIPWRECKED**  
RESCUED BY JESUS

Contact April Cole 432.337.1527



## Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday



Palm Sunday Traditional Worship

Dozens of FoundationKids waved the palm branches high at the beginning of Holy Week on **Palm Sunday**. Worshipers gathered around tables to discuss the meaning of **Maundy Thursday**. Participants learned about the elements of a Seder meal; foot and hand washing, and communion. All acts done by Jesus with his disciples on his last night on earth.

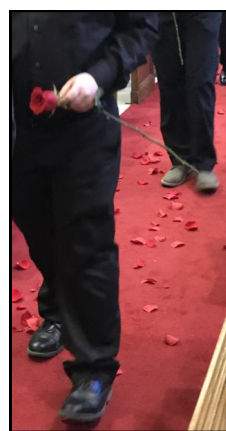
Maundy Thursday in Fellowship Center



Good Friday, *The Rose Of Calvary*



Good Friday was marked by a beautiful choral presentation by the sanctuary choir, *The Rose Of Calvary*. Glorious voices filled the sanctuary with thought provoking music. The silence of the choir recessional was broken only by the sound of rose petals being ripped from the stem and dropped to the floor. Each petal represented the blood of Jesus.



The sunrise did not disappoint at the premiere Community Easter Sunrise Service. More than 300 attendees and volunteers gathered at Ratliff Stadium to experience an inspiring worship service. The collaboration was possible through the good works of All Peoples Worship Center, Asbury United Methodist Church, Connection Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, Highland and Bunche Church of Christ, Mackey Chapel United Methodist Church, Refuge Ministries, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. The service was dedicated to one of the lead pastors, Rev. Buddy Monahan who was killed in an auto accident on March 27. The offering that was taken of \$2476.78 will go to ECISD Community Outreach Center which serves the homeless students of the school district.



Rev. Dr. Ed Williamson welcomes new members Cynthia & Don Coburn, Nancy Spano Riley and Dub Riley, and Jane and O.T. Garza who joined during Traditional service.



and Matthan; Lori Smith and children Levi & Jade; Richard & Sylvia Llanez, and children, Saarah, Raechelle, Xylina, Ricardo and Aric; Jennifer & Joedale Gomez.



Fellowship Worship Service celebrates joyful baptisms on Easter. (L) Pastor Todd is pictured holding Bowen Garza, infant son of Clifton & Erica Garza. (R) Jameson Salisbury, son of Holly Schultz stands beside his mom and Pastor Todd after his baptism.



Of course, the Easter Egg Hunt was the main attraction for the younger crowd. Please see all the adorable kids on FUMCOdesa.org, FaceBook